

Letter from Fidel Castro, Age 12, to President
Franklin D. Roosevelt



COLEGIO DE DOLORES
APARTADO 1
SANTIAGO DE CUBA

Ack. 11/13/40 SD- cds



BR 811-001 Roosevelt 695.7 Castro, Fidel

Santiago de Cuba.
Nov 6 1940.

Mr. Franklin Roosevelt,
President of the United
States.

My good friend Roosevelt
I don't know very En-
glish, but I know as much
as write to you.

I like to hear the radio, and
I am very happy, because
I heard in it, that you will
be President for a new
(periodo)

I am twelve years old,
I am a boy but I think very
much, but I do not think
that I am writing to the

President of the United States.

If you like, give me a ten dollar bill green american, in the letter, because never, I have not seen a ten dollars bill green american and I would like to have one of them.

My address is:

Sr. Fidel Castro
Colegio de Dolores.
Santiago de Cuba
Oriente. Cuba.

I don't know very English but I know very much Spanish and I suppose you don't know very Spanish but you know very English because you are American but I am not American.

Thank you very much)
Good by. Your friend,

Fidel Castro

If you want iron to make your ships I will show to you the biggest (minas) of iron of the land. They are in Mayari. Oriente Cuba.

Draft of "Day of Infamy Speech," message to Congress from President Franklin D. Roosevelt concerning the Japanese attack on the United States

TO THE CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES:

Yesterday, December 7, 1941 — a date which will live in infamy — the United States of America was suddenly and deliberately attacked by naval and air forces of the Empire of Japan.

The United States was at peace with ^{that} ~~the~~ nation and, at the solicitation of Japan, was still in conversation with its Government and its Emperor looking toward the maintenance of peace in the Pacific. Indeed, one hour after Japanese air squadrons had commenced bombing in Oahu, the Japanese Ambassador to the United States and his colleague delivered to the Secretary of State a formal reply to a recent American message. While this reply stated that it seemed useless to continue the existing diplomatic negotiations, it contained no threat or hint of war or armed attack.

It will be recorded that the distance of Hawaii from Japan makes it obvious that the attack was deliberately planned many days or even weeks ago. During the intervening time the Japanese Government has deliberately sought to deceive the United States by false statements and expressions of hope for continued peace.

The attack yesterday on the Hawaiian Islands has caused severe damage to American naval and military forces. Very many American lives have been lost. In addition American ships have been ^{reported} torpedoed on the high seas between San Francisco and Honolulu.

Yesterday the Japanese Government also launched an attack against Malaya.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Hong Kong.

Last night Japanese forces attacked Guam.

Last night Japanese forces attacked the Philippine Islands.

Last night the Japanese attacked Wake Island.

This morning the Japanese attacked Midway Island.

Japan has, therefore, undertaken a surprise offensive extending throughout the Pacific area. The facts of yesterday speak for themselves. The people of the United States have already formed their opinions and well understand the implications to the very ^{life and} safety of our nation.

As Commander-in-Chief of the Army and Navy I have directed that all measures be taken for our defense.

Always will be remembered the character of the onslaught against us.

No matter how long it may take us to overcome this premeditated invasion, the American people ~~will~~ in their righteous ^{will} might win through to absolute victory.

I believe I interpret the will of the Congress and of the people when I assert that we will not only defend ourselves to the uttermost but will make very certain that this form of treachery shall never endanger us again.

Hostilities exist. There is no blinking at the fact that our people, our territory and our interests are in grave danger.

With confidence in our armed forces -- with the unbounding determination of our people -- we will gain the inevitable triumph -- so help us God.

I ask that the Congress declare that since the unprovoked and dastardly attack by Japan on Sunday, December seventh, a state of war has existed between the United States and the Japanese Empire.

Franklin D. Roosevelt

THE WHITE HOUSE,

December 8, 1941.